

PATENT
S/N 09/256,411

Docket No. 1232-4512

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23-25 and 27-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1-10 have been rejected and claims 11-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23-25 and 27-29 have been allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kawasaki et al. ("Kawasaki")(US Patent No. 5,331,367) in view of Suda et al. ("Suda")(US Patent Publ. No. 2002/0109784).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the pending claims and of the prior art in the stated rejections and respectfully traverses these rejections.

Nonetheless, in order to expedite allowance, rejected claims 1-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections as to these claims moot. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all rejections having been addressed, as there are no outstanding rejections remaining, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the petitioned extension of time is sufficient for the filing of this paper. However, should an additional extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized

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to charge any additional fees that may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment,
to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4512.

If any outstanding issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to contact
the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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